BUREAU OF

AGRICHI TURAL ECONOMIC

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN PARKE COUNTY, INDIANA /1

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Although land-use planning has not been considered in home-economics work, it seems that several uses can be made of it. Perhaps the majority of women could not do the actual classification of the land in the county, but they should be informed and interested in what kind of land they live on. So, the first place for land-use planning in home economics would be in giving the women general information about their own land. It is a well-established fact that few enterprises on the farm are not first discussed by both members of the family before much is done. If the women on the farm were better informed about their land and its use, they could be more helpful in making decisions and perhaps more tolerant in their attitude toward various farm problems.

The second, and perhaps more important, use to extension people for such a program in home economics would be as a basis for program planning.

It seems logical that the home situation in the county would have some correlation with the present use of land and its recommended use. In order to determine this, a survey of home conditions on the various classes of land has been planned for our county. This survey should do several things:

- 1. Give valuable factual information about the county.
- 2. Since all good educational programs should be based on needs of the people, the results of the survey together with the general information obtained from land-use planning should enable people to see more clearly their own problems, and so make it easier for them to realize their needs and enable us to help them to better advantage.
 - 3. Information gained can be used in county program planning.
 - a. Results of survey might show us that we are working with only those people on the good land and are neglecting those who really need help. Perhaps in home-economics work we need to change our teaching methods, work less with organized clubs, and organize special groups for women unable to go to meetings.
 - b. Such a survey might show us where to place the emphasis in some of our projects. For example, in discussing gardens, there will be those people on submarginal lands who should raise gardens with the idea of supplementing their cash income and adding to their noncash income as well as providing healthful

^{1/} A paper presented at 1940 Agriculture and Farm Family Living Outlook Conference, November 4, 1939, Washington, D. C.

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food. The emphasis given to people in a garden meeting would be different from that given to those in the good area who have sufficient money for staples but need gardens to give them fresh vegetables for variety and for health.

- c. We may discover a need for different subject matter in different areas. For example, the housing situation on poor lands may be deplorable, and information given the women there would not be needed as a county-wide project.
- d. We may find some people living on the best land who do not have as high a living level as others. This would seem to indicate some farm— or home-management problems.
- e. Local people in planning their home-economics club programs can utilize the information and perhaps have wider participation in their activities. If they can analyze their own and their neighbors' needs and develop programs that will help the whole community, leaders will be doing a great service to the county.
- 4. Information gained can be used advantageously by specialists coming into the county. If they can see the county situation, they should be in a better position to choose the material and methods best suited to the people.

Combining information gained through land-use planning programs with home-economics work should bring about better farm-family living, which is the ultimate aim of extension work.